[Translation]

For Rehabilitation of Militants

2546. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other States to bring back the misguided youth in the main stream during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) No funds have been allocated to any of the states for this purpose. However, Central Government have sanctioned raising of one CRPF and one BSF battalion for recruitment of surrendered militants of Jammu and Kashmir.

Investigation into Death of a Mysterious Person

2547. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gumnami Baba Prakaran Mein Kanni Kyo Katti Hai Sarkar" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran', dated January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Subsidy Direct to Farmers

2548. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam have recommended the restoration of the earlier practice of distributing fertilizer subsidy direct to the farmers;

(b) whether Government will simplify the procedure for distributing the subsidy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such recommendation has been received from the Government of Assam.

(b) and (c) In addition to subsidy on Urea, which is under Statutory Price Control, Government of India is giving concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic & potassic fertilizers to the farmers on the basis of certified reports of sales received from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. It has been decided to give 80% as "on account" payment and the balance 20% after verification by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations on sales effective from 1st April, 1997.

[Translation]

Setting up of Third Border Wing in Gujarat

2549. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Home Affairs of the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Government regarding "setting up of third border wing Home Guard for Frontier Area in Gujarat" during the last three years;

(b) if so, details of such proposals received during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the number of proposals accepted and rejected;

(d) the number of proposals under consideration/ lying pending;

(e) the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said proposal is to be sanctioned and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) No proposal was received during the years 1994 and 1995. However, during December 1996, a request was received from the State Government of Gujarat to consider the proposal for raising 3rd Battalion of Border Wing Home Guards. The State Government is seeking to supplement the police presence by raising another battalion of Border Wing Home Guards to curb anti-smuggling operations and other subversive activities. The proposal is under examination in this Ministry.

[English]

Water Scarcity

2550. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Water to be scarce in India by 2005" appearing in *Indian Express* dated January 28, 1997;